

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and further examination of the present Application is requested. Claims 1-30 were pending and were rejected. By this Amendment, Claims 31-35 are added, and Claims 1-30 are canceled. No new matter is introduced by these amendments.

This case has had a long difficult prosecution with many rounds of rejections, an Appeal, a suspension, and now a new Non-Final Office Action rejecting all the claims on new grounds. A fresh approach to the Claims is warranted. Original Claims 1-30 were too broad and too many. For example, Claim 1 had only two distinguishing characteristics, a plurality of serial buses and a control unit. As a result, these Claims read on several of the cited prior art references.

The Office Action now cites Yona (US 7,085,875), which describes a modular switch as used in telephone PBX systems. Such describes a similar concept of using multiple, slower buses to enable flexible communication between processor nodes, and so the citation was reasonable given the wide breadth of Claim 1.

So Claims 31-35 are presented here to clearly and fully distinguish over the cited prior art. The intended subject matter can be sufficiently recited in these five claims. The recitations describe the complex combinations of elements disclosed in the Specification and Drawings, and are highly specific to this unique application. The cited prior art does not describe or suggest these combinations. The element numbers from the various Drawings have been included in Claims 31-35 to demonstrate that only original subject matter is needed in these combinations, and that no new matter has been introduced.

Claims 31-35 are now believed to be in condition for allowance, and withdrawal of the rejections appears to be appropriate. If any remaining issues can be addressed on the telephone, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (916) 226-6745.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. B. Main', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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